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# USDA Club News

U.S. Department of Agriculture

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JULY, 1952.

DALLAS, TEXAS.

## It's A Texas Fact!

There is a lot of gas up in the Texas Panhandle but most of it is helium, the non-inflammable, non-explosive stuff the government used in their once-proud fleet of navy dirigibles commanded by Texas' own Helman Rosendahl. There was a lot more up there before a fellow named Smith set off an explosion that almost rocked the Leaning Tower

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## Fae Ray Named "Member of the Month" for June

MISS VERNA FAE RAY, PMA employee in the Office of Compliance and Investigation, won the June citation, "Member of the Month", awarded by the USDA Club Board of Directors. Their vote

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Watch, America!

WHERE THE NORTHERN OCEAN DARKENS,  
WHERE THE ROLLING RIVERS RUN  
PAST THE COLD AND EMPTY HEADLANDS,  
TOWARD THE SLOW AND WESTERING SUN,  
THERE OUR FATHERS LONG BEFORE US,  
ARMED WITH FREEDOM, FACED THE DEEP;  
WHAT THEY WON WITH LOVE AND LABOR  
LET THEIR CHILDREN WATCH AND KEEP!

BY OUR DARK AND DREAMING FORESTS,  
BY OUR FREE AND SHINING SKIES,  
BY OUR GREEN AND RIPENING PRAIRIES,  
WHERE THE WESTERN MOUNTAINS RISE;  
GOD WHO GAVE OUR FATHERS FREEDOM,  
GOD WHO MADE OUR FATHERS BRAVE,  
WHAT THEY BUILT WITH LOVE AND ANGUISH  
LET THEIR CHILDREN WATCH AND SAVE!!!

-\* Robert Nathan.



## Fae Ray (continued)

on Miss Ray's selection was unanimous. She is currently serving as Chairman of the Employee Welfare Committee of the USDA Club. That committee's latest project was a "recreational book" of tickets and services entitling holders to sharp discounts. Fae's most recent accomplishment was in connection with the cancellation of hospitalization insurance contracts held by many USDA employees in a certain insurance company. Her alertness and business acumen enabled her to get two other insurance companies doing business with USDA members to make their policies available to each affected member without loss of time and at minimum trouble and expense to each.

Fae has been active on different committees almost since she started working for the Department, as she is the type of person who is regularly in the forefront of any project furthering employee welfare, either as promoter, sponsor, or humble worker in the ranks.

She has also been active in the PMA Federal Credit Union, and helped it to grow and fill ever-expanding needs. Her wise counsel has helped keep this growth on a healthy and sound basis.

Born in Boyd, Texas, Fae attended the local high school, and after graduation she enrolled for a course of study in McKenzie Business School. She started working with the Department July 28, 1938 in the old Agricultural Adjustment Administration, at College Station. Later transferring to the State office at Austin. In January, 1942, she transferred to the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation at Dallas, and in September, 1944 she went with PMA predecessor, Office of Marketing Service. In June, 1945 she became an employee in PMA's Compliance and Investigation branch and the subsequent satisfaction seems to have been mutual. She is still there, and, in the vernacular, about as busy as a coon dog trying to find the scent of mink in a flower shop.

Miss Ray's hobbies are canasta, horseback riding, and playing the piano. She confesses she's no good at bridge and plays the piano by ear. She is such a personable young lady we venture to add that nobody would notice such a minor detail as that. We might also add that Chairman Pickering and his committee are continuing their happy habit of selecting exceptionally worthy nominees for the awards.

## Myths vs Facts

THE MYTH : "TAXES ARE HIGH  
BECAUSE WE HAVE  
SO MANY GOVERNMENT  
EMPLOYEES.

THE FACT : Of the approximately 70 billion dollar budget for 1952 fiscal year the total expenditures for salaries and wages of civilian employees (based on the expenditures for the first two months) was at the annual rate of approximately 9 billion dollars, or 13 % of the total budget. The salary total INCLUDES salaries and wages for those employees who are paid from receipts of their own agencies' operations--primarily the Post Office and government-owned corporations, or from trust funds.

From an overall standpoint, you can see that salaries, and wages of all government employees are but a small total of the national budget.

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### PMA ALSO OFFERS CONSTRUCTION LOANS

Not all farmers are aware that they can obtain loans from PMA's C.C.C. for the purpose of building storage facilities for grain, oats, wheat, corn, barley, cotton and other crops eligible for price support loans. Such loans may be spread over five years at 4 % interest. Funds necessary for this purpose are usually about what it would cost to store the commodity in an elevator for that length of time.

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YOU CANNOT CHANGE THE PAST,  
BUT YOU CAN RUIN THE PRESENT,  
BY WORRYING ABOUT THE FUTURE.

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An idle tongue may denote an active brain.



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JAMES L. (Jimmy) HYLES,  
EDITOR.

With this issue the editor is pleased to welcome an expanding circle of readers which now embraces the field men of Farmers Home Administration who in most cases are doing a most important, sometimes difficult, job. Theirs is the actual contact with the farmers which FHA seeks to help, and the editor is personally a ware that they are doing a swell job.

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# N O T I C E !

The Dallas Watch Company, formerly in the Fidelity Bldg., has moved to 206A S. Houston Street. We are informed by Miss Fae Ray, of the Welfare Committee that they are still offering USDA members the same discounts on Zenith TV sets, deep freezers, and other electrical equipment and appliances.

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## REPORT ON THE PARTY

Those who failed to attend the USDA dinner party missed out on an enjoyable evening. True, the Rendezvous Room was overflowing and some of you had to sit in the front section out of hearing of our congenial master of ceremonies, but we hear the company out there was congenial too, and knowing some of those who sat out there we'll say you were in very fine company. Our thanks to Mildred Yeager for saving us a seat "down front" and we hope Si has found a home for all his surplus cats. We are sure all will agree that Lee Pierson and his com-

## PMA COLES THROUGH

When 6-year-old Beverly Fincher, Charlotte, N. C. a little girl stricken with leukemia, had an appetite for grapes recently, she got them. However there was some slight difficulty.

Grapes were out of season in the U.S. Requests went from North Carolina to California. Governor Warren contacted PMA men in that state; they flashed the request to Fruit & Vegetable's Marketing chief in Washington, D.C., Don Schoolcraft, who, recalling that some imported grapes had been offered in New York, wired F&V reporter Fred Nightingale there. Combing market outlets he located a few pounds of Balinka grapes which had been grown in South Africa—ten thousand miles away. Sped to the airport by special police escort they caught the next flight and Beverly had her grapes only a few hours after PMA got on the job.

Soul-less bureaucrats? HM-MMM.

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## Did You Know...

THAT THE FIRST INSURANCE COMPANY IN THE U.S. WAS A MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY?

AND THAT THE SAME INSURANCE COMPANY FOUNDED BY BENJAMIN FRANKLIN AND SOME ASSOCIATES IS STILL WRITING POLICIES, AND THIS YEAR CELEBRATED ITS TWO HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY?

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## FHA AREA FINANCE MOVES

The Area Finance Office of Farmers Home Administration completed their move from 2007 McKinney Avenue to 912 S. Erway over the week-end of June 28-29. Some of the advantages are: better air-conditioning, better eating facilities, closer to this editor's home, and a more compact grouping of related departments. One disadvantage: Inadequate parking facilities, the universal lament.



## I T ' A T E X A S F A C T (From page 1)

of Pisa back on an even keel again. In this little tale about Mr. Smith, who fought gloriously in the Texas war for independence, we will also correct history by explaining how beautiful Palo Duro Canyon came to be. Historians have heretofore given Mother Nature credit for this rival to the Grand Canyon of the Colorado. For the first time we are giving credit to whom credit belongs: namely, to Mr. Smith, himself.

One evening this gentleman was crouched over a small fire. It burned fitfully, due to the semi-cured state of the buffalo chips he was using in lieu of firewood. He had traveled far in the wild Texas terrain and was spent and saddle-weary. More, he was hungry enough to eat a spanish bit without horse-radish. He had managed to wing a Texas jackrabbit and cripple it enough to run it down, and was now engaged in the pleasant task of roasting it over an open spit set up on the tableland of the Llano Estacado. Although he didn't know it, he was also about to set off the most gigantic "fire-cracker" of all time, even though it was nowhere near the Fourth of July.

The fire didn't seem to catch on and Mr. Smith grew hungrier by the minute. Becoming impatient he reached over and gave the fire a vigorous poke with a stick, probably swearing through his week's growth of beard at the same time. At that moment a cataclysmic wh-oo-oo-m jarred the area and everything became a varicolored blur of dirt, flame, and smoke. (Part of the dirt particles are still falling in distant parts of the world which probably explains why a Texan feels at home no matter what part of the old globe he happens to find himself.) Returning to Mr. Smith, if he had had time at the moment for deductive reflection, he would have reasoned---and correctly---that he had poked an opening in the ground deep enough to enlarge an embryo fissure filled with gas from subterranean oil structures---probably the Paluxy sands. This was enough. Mr. Smith was blown into the next county---it was appropriately named after his labor on when it had become more populated in a less precipitate manner---and he was rendered slightly groggy from the concussion and forcible flight through the invigorating Texas ozone. They say Mr. Smith was the maddest man in Texas when he picked himself up and shook himself

(Over here, please)

(If you're still with us!)

## Sports Bulletin

Results of the golf tournament held by the PMA enthusiasts in Fiscal Division saw "Red" Hall (IBM) winning first prize (set of irons), and "Wild Bill" Boren, (Warehouse) coming in second for the dozen golf balls. Consolation winners were Bud Grover, first, with Garland Wheeler, Runner-up. The folks down there are "talking up" another tournament in the fall to be played over the Cedar Crest layout, and invite anyone in U S D A who might be interested enough to compete to talk it over with Jerry Davis P M A Commodity Office, Extension 843.

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NOTICE!

USDA members holding "Recreation Booklets" made available by the Welfare Committee are informed that the tickets to "Bob Will's Ranch-house" will be honored by the new management even though the "Ranch-house" is no more. It is now "Longhorn Ranch. Committee Chairman Fae Ray states that Mr. Groom of Longhorn Ranch will admit holders any Wednesday, Friday, or Sunday until tickets have all been validated.

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IDEAS ARE LIKE RIVERS: THEY SHOULD BE DRIVEN HOME AND CLINCHED WHILE HOT.

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together again. Instead of being grateful to the Almighty that he was still intact and still in Texas instead of semi-civilized Arkansas or some other place, the miserable whelp was mourning his lost supper. The gigantic explosion, besides taking his hearing, also tore fantastic shapes in the virgin landscape for leagues by a chain reaction of interlocking gas pockets. It's a Texas Fact, that's how Palo Duro Canyon was formed, and how "Deaf" Smith got his name